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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTING \$1,173,700 IN CULTURAL CENTER FOR PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE

Kingston----Approximately 100 years ago the last of the S'Klallam community Longhouses were either burned down to the ground or have simply fallen to ruin over time. The Tribe has struggled to maintain its identity and cultural history, but with the help of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development a new Longhouse will be constructed for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

USDA Rural Development through the Community Facilities program, has set aside \$1,173,700 in loan funding for the construction of a Longhouse for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe on the reservation in Kingston. The total estimated cost for construction is \$1,373,700. The additional \$200,000 is to be provided by a Building for the Arts grant from the Washington State Office of Community Development.

"USDA Rural Development is proud to be assisting the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, in partnership with the Washington State Office of Community Development to provide funding for this much needed project", said Jackie J. Gleason, Washington State Director for USDA Rural Development.

The funds will be used to construct a Longhouse in the House of Knowledge complex. The Longhouse will serve all individuals in the regional area, who will be invited to learn about Port Gamble S'Klallam art, language, dance, and ceremony. The Longhouse creates a unique cultural resource for area residents and visitors to the region.

USDA Rural Development is dedicated to enhancing the ability of rural communities to develop, grow, and improve their quality of life by targeting financial assistance and technical resources in areas of greatest need through activities of greatest potential. Further information on the Community Facilities Program and other USDA Rural Development programs may be obtained from any USDA Service Center or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa>. ###